



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24785
9 November 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BELGIUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

My Government is extremely alarmed by the situation which now prevails in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As the Security Council, since the adoption of its resolution 713 (1991) and all its other subsequent resolutions, has undertaken to continue active consideration of this question, I have the honour to request, on behalf of my Government, that you convene an urgent meeting of the Council.

In my opinion, the Security Council's work would be usefully aided by the presence, under rule 39 of its rules of procedure, of the two co-chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Vance and Mr. Owen, as well as that of Mr. Mazowiecki, the author of two reports on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the first of which has already been distributed as an official document of the Security Council (S/24516 of 3 September 1992).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations



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LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

My Government is gravely concerned by the current situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In its resolution 713 (1991) and in all its subsequent resolutions, the Security Council undertook to pursue consideration of this issue.

Consequently, on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that you convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council for the purpose of examining the current situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At this meeting, the Council might find it of value to hear Mr. Mazowiecki. I propose, therefore, that under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, the Security Council should invite Mr. Mazowiecki to speak before it.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE



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NOTE VERBALE DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992) has the honour to communicate the following:

Austria has on many occasions expressed its abhorrence of the grave violations of human rights and norms of international humanitarian law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and emphasized the common responsibility of the members of the international community to see to it that those who have committed such crimes are brought to justice.

Austria therefore welcomed the request addressed to States and, as appropriate, international humanitarian organizations, by the Security Council in the aforementioned resolutions to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them relating to such violations as well as the establishment of an impartial Commission of Experts to examine and analyse the information submitted pursuant to these resolutions.

In connection with the armed conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia a great number of refugees and displaced persons have either passed through Austria or still remain there. Many of these persons were questioned by the competent Austrian authorities and have given testimony regarding atrocities. Hundreds of thousands of pages of relevant information have been collected and computerized. This information, as it concerns asylum seekers, has been made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on a case-by-case basis. Thus, this information is already at the disposal of the United Nations and can be forwarded to the Commission of Experts established under Security Council resolution 780 (1992). Should the Commission or any other organ of the United Nations wish to obtain information from Austria directly such request would gladly be complied with at any time.

Furthermore, a great number of persons are at present remaining in Austria who have not yet made depositions to the competent Austrian authorities because they have not applied for refugee status. Such persons will be requested to submit any relevant information regarding atrocities committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia which will then be transmitted to the Secretary-General for forwarding to the Commission of Experts. In addition, the Austrian Government has instructed all reception centres to compile relevant information. The Austrian authorities will also forward to the Secretary-General any information on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia they receive from other sources.



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GENERAL

S/24788
9 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached note verbale, dated 4 November 1992, was addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations.

Annex

[Original: French]

Note verbale dated 4 November 1992 from the Permanent
Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his note of 14 October in which he invites the Swiss Government to communicate to him information relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Switzerland is ready, in the spirit of Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992), to cooperate closely with the investigations being carried out by the United Nations into violations of humanitarian law in the context of the Yugoslav conflict, in particular by communicating relevant information on the matter. It does not, however, have any information concerning evidence submitted personally by Swiss citizens regarding violations of international humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict. Swiss citizens involved in the operations of an international organization report directly to the organization in question; as, for example, in the case of the Swiss military observers attached to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); or as in the case of the Swiss expert who, from 29 August to 4 September, participated in the CSCE mission to inspect places of detention in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the report of which has been published. In the war zones, about 100 Swiss women delegates and personnel of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are carrying out their mission of protection and assistance. The evidence they provide is brought solely to the attention of ICRC, which alone decides on the use to which it is to be put, the protection of victims being accorded priority over any other consideration.

Switzerland is also ready to consider the possibility of acting as an intermediary in the event of persons who have left the war zones being present in Switzerland and wishing to communicate information to the United Nations. It is currently considering what procedures might be put in place to enable that goal to be achieved. In such circumstances, the interests of the victims still present in the conflict zones - in particular, prisoners - would need to be carefully safeguarded.
